

REMARKS

Claims 3-11 are pending in this application. Claims 8-11 have now been cancelled without prejudice. No claims have been amended or added herein.

In the Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Decision mailed on August 22, 2008, the rejection of claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0106202 to Hunter in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0008662 to Stern et al. ("Stern"), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 7,079,656 to Menzel et al. ("Menzel") was maintained. Applicants have now cancelled claims 8-11 without prejudice to put this case in condition for allowance

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 3-7. Claims 8-11 are now cancelled without prejudice to put this case in condition for allowance.

Additional Comments

Please note that dependent claims 3 and 12 filed in the Response mailed on July 7, 2008 inadvertently contained subject matter previously amended in the Amendment filed on August 28, 2008. Claims 3 and 12 have now been corrected, as previously submitted in the Amendment filed on August 28, 2008.

Conclusion

Reconsideration of the above-identified application and allowance of claims 3-7 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Holmes
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 29,392

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-9076

Dated: September 26, 2008